

PIA4152: GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Globalization and Its Discontents

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

4152

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Globalization is a master megatrend of the 21st century, a multifaceted process transforming the institutions and practices of international relations, the global economy, culture, and everyday life. Globalization's essence is a voluminous, accelerating increase in the flow of all manner of objects and ideas across nation-state boundaries throughout every corner of the globe, albeit unequally and with varying consequences. The process expands the arena of action in which government leaders, CEOs, cultural influencers, and other public figures make consequential decisions to include vast new expanses of geographical space populated by many different kinds of people of varying identities, occupations, perspectives, and interests. Globalization can be highly positive in its consequences (e.g., facilitating the diffusion of new knowledge and technologies, stimulating economic development) or negative (hastening the transmission of new pathological viruses, propagating financial crises). Either way, globalization is powerfully but often unpredictably transformative. This course will convey to students the competing conceptual and theoretical approaches to explaining globalization while illustrating these concepts and theories with real-world developments. The course will also convey to students the variety of approaches practitioners use in trying to manage globalization so that its benefits can be maximized and the harms it causes can be reduced.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the key developments in the history of globalization	20	x	x	
2	Describe conceptually the varying forms globalization takes in different spheres (political, economic, socio-cultural, environmental, etc.)	25	x	x	
3	Explain the competing theories used to analyze the reasons for globalization and its primary and higher-order consequences and implications	30	x	x	
4	Articulate the tools and approaches deployed by practitioners to manage globalization	25	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings	Each week, students are required to read carefully selected articles and/or book chapters that are highly relevant to the topic being discussed	1, 2, 3, 4	

2	Lectures	The instructor will present concepts, theories, and factual data on globalization	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Participation	Each lecture includes in-class discussions, and students are required to actively participate and contribute	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Presentation	Students are required to form groups and give an oral presentation on a topic related to globalization	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	Yes
2	Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
3	Mid-term Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
4	Final Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Participation

Criterion

- (1) active participation in class discussions;
- (2) strong effort at using theories and concepts to illuminate issues concerning globalisation;
- (3) demonstration and development of oral argumentation skills

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Active participation; clear evidence of strong critical thinking; demonstrated ability to use concepts and theories to analyse issues concerning globalization; excellent oral argumentation skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Reasonable level of participation; clear evidence of critical thinking; demonstrated ability to use concepts and theories to analyse issues concerning globalization; good oral argumentation skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate level of participation; some evidence of critical thinking; some ability to use concepts and theories to analyse issues concerning globalization; adequate oral argumentation skills

Marginal (D)

Very little participation; weak evidence of critical thinking; not much ability to use concepts and theories to analyse issues concerning globalization; poor oral argumentation skills

Failure (F)

Almost no participation; no evidence of critical thinking; hardly any ability to use concepts and theories to analyse issues concerning globalization; nearly non-existent oral argumentation skills

Assessment Task

Presentation

Criterion

- (1) able to deliver an effective presentation on a case of globalisation issue
- (2) able to summarise, analyse, and evaluate arguments

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent understanding of the presentation topic and globalisation issues, and excellent presentation skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good understanding of the presentation topic and globalisation issues, and good presentation skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair understanding of the presentation topic and globalisation issues, and fair presentation skills

Marginal (D)

Marginal understanding of the presentation topic and globalisation issues, and limited presentation skills

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate any understanding of the presentation topic and globalisation issues, or fail to deliver the presentation

Assessment Task

Mid-term Quiz

Criterion

- (1) application of relevant examples and materials;
- (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity;
- (3) compelling and effective writing structure and style

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; clear evidence of strong critical thinking and creativity; keen analytical skills; unquestionably well-structured essay

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; clear evidence of critical thinking and creativity; good analytical skills; reasonably well-structured essay

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; some evidence of critical thinking and creativity; decent analytical skills; fairly well-structured essay

Marginal (D)

Limited knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; weak evidence of critical thinking and creativity; poor analytical skills; poorly-structured essay

Failure (F)

Hardly any knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; no evidence of critical thinking and creativity; nearly non-existent analytical skills; woefully under-structured essay

Assessment Task

Final Quiz

Criterion

- (1) application of relevant examples and materials;
- (2) evidence of critical thinking and creativity;
- (3) compelling and effective writing structure and style

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; clear evidence of strong critical thinking and creativity; keen analytical skills; unquestionably well-structured answers

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; clear evidence of critical thinking and creativity; good analytical skills; reasonably well-structured answers

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; some evidence of critical thinking and creativity; decent analytical skills; fairly well-structured answers

Marginal (D)

Limited knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; weak evidence of critical thinking and creativity; poor analytical skills; poorly-structured answers

Failure (F)

Hardly any knowledge of cases, theories, concepts, and policies; no evidence of critical thinking and creativity; nearly non-existent analytical skills; woefully under-structured answers

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Globalization, international relations, world economy, global culture, technological change

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Lechner, Frank J. and John Boli, eds. (2020). The Globalization Reader. 6th edition. New York: Wiley-Blackwell.
2	Ritzer, George and Paul Dean (2019). Globalization: The Essentials. 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.